

Continental Drift — hangout nj

Hi students,
My name is
Mr. Foulkii.....

..as your "**Hangout**" teacher,
I am going to teach you
New Jersey History.
Each month, you will learn something new
about New Jersey by visiting our web site!
Our first lesson will be on
Continental Drift!
Or "*Where New Jersey has been
and where it's going!*"

NICE
TIE,
MISTER
FOULKII!

By the way, I know about such things
because I am a direct descendant of the
Official New Jersey State Dinosaur...the
Hadrosaurus Foulkii.

Millions of years ago, my ancestors lived
in New Jersey and its surrounding
areas ---- like **Africa!**

WHAT?

Africa isn't
anywhere near
New Jersey!

I've
never seen an
exit for it
on the Turnpike...

What's that ?

You say
Africa
isn't *anywhere near*
New Jersey!



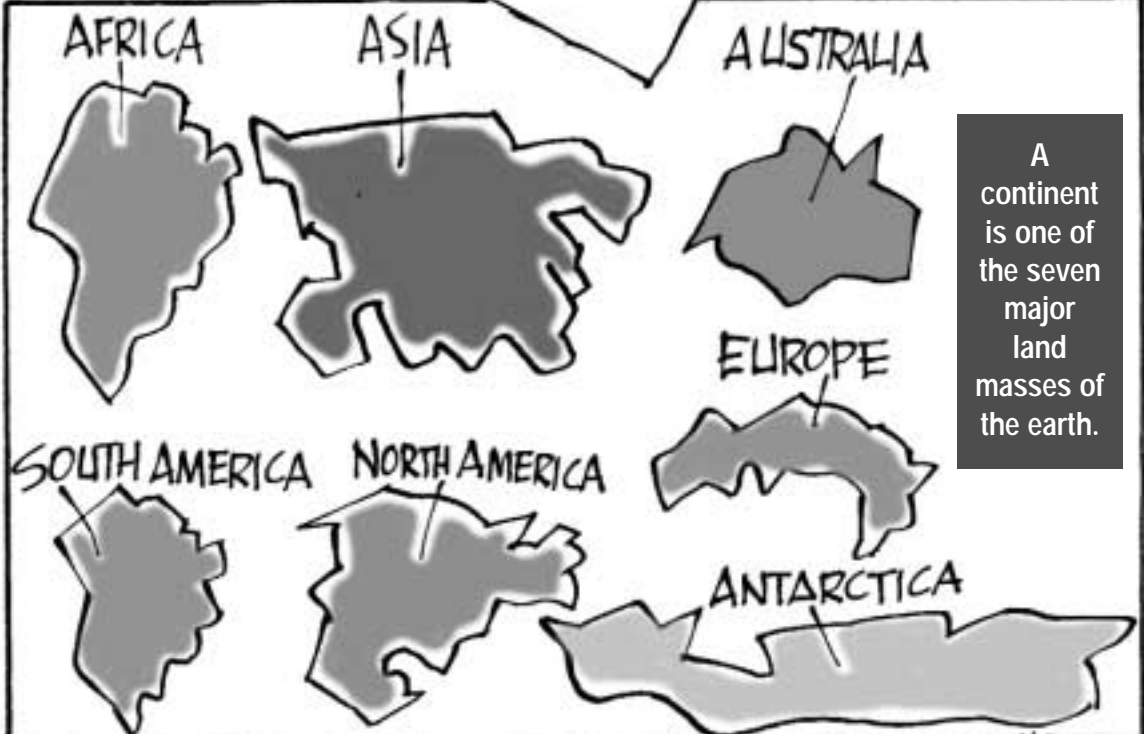
Well, that may be **true today**
but in my ancestors' times
New Jersey and Africa were **all** a part of
the same **Supercontinent** called
"Pangaea."



Look, Kids...
There's no
Atlantic Ocean
separating
North America
and Africa.



Today,
there
are
SEVEN
continents.



A
continent
is one of
the seven
major
land
masses of
the earth.

New Jersey is in the **United States** and the
United States is a part of the **North American Continent**.



220 million years ago,
there were no towns,
no states, no countries.
And the **seven continents**
that we know today were all
joined together into one very
large *land mass* – that's the
Supercontinent
"Pangaea."

So, it was very easy to walk back and forth between
the lands of New Jersey and Africa.



The rest
of the
world
was one
BIG
ocean...

..and
New Jersey
had no
beaches!

WHOA!!
REAL
WATER!!!



In fact,
New Jersey was just about in
the **middle** of Pangaea.
It was probably part of a
big desert
in those days.



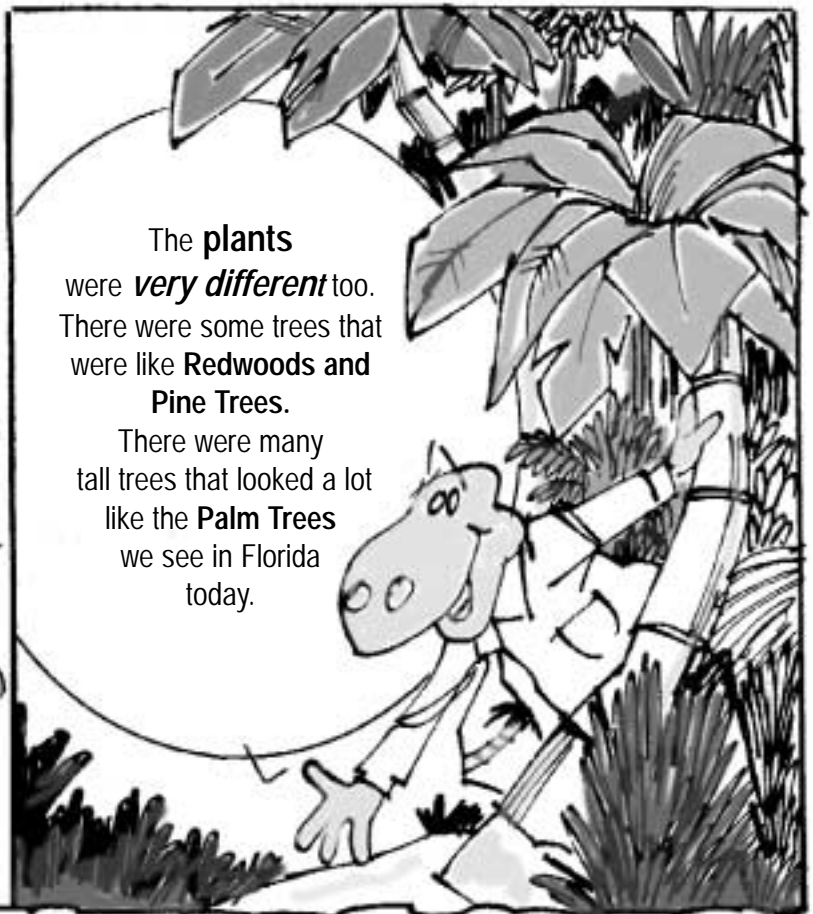
STOP!
You're
Splashing
Me!!

Of course, the weather was a lot different in those days too. It was always **HOT** – there were *no winters*. In fact, there was **no** North Pole!



The plants were *very different* too. There were some trees that were like **Redwoods** and **Pine Trees**.

There were many tall trees that looked a lot like the **Palm Trees** we see in Florida today.

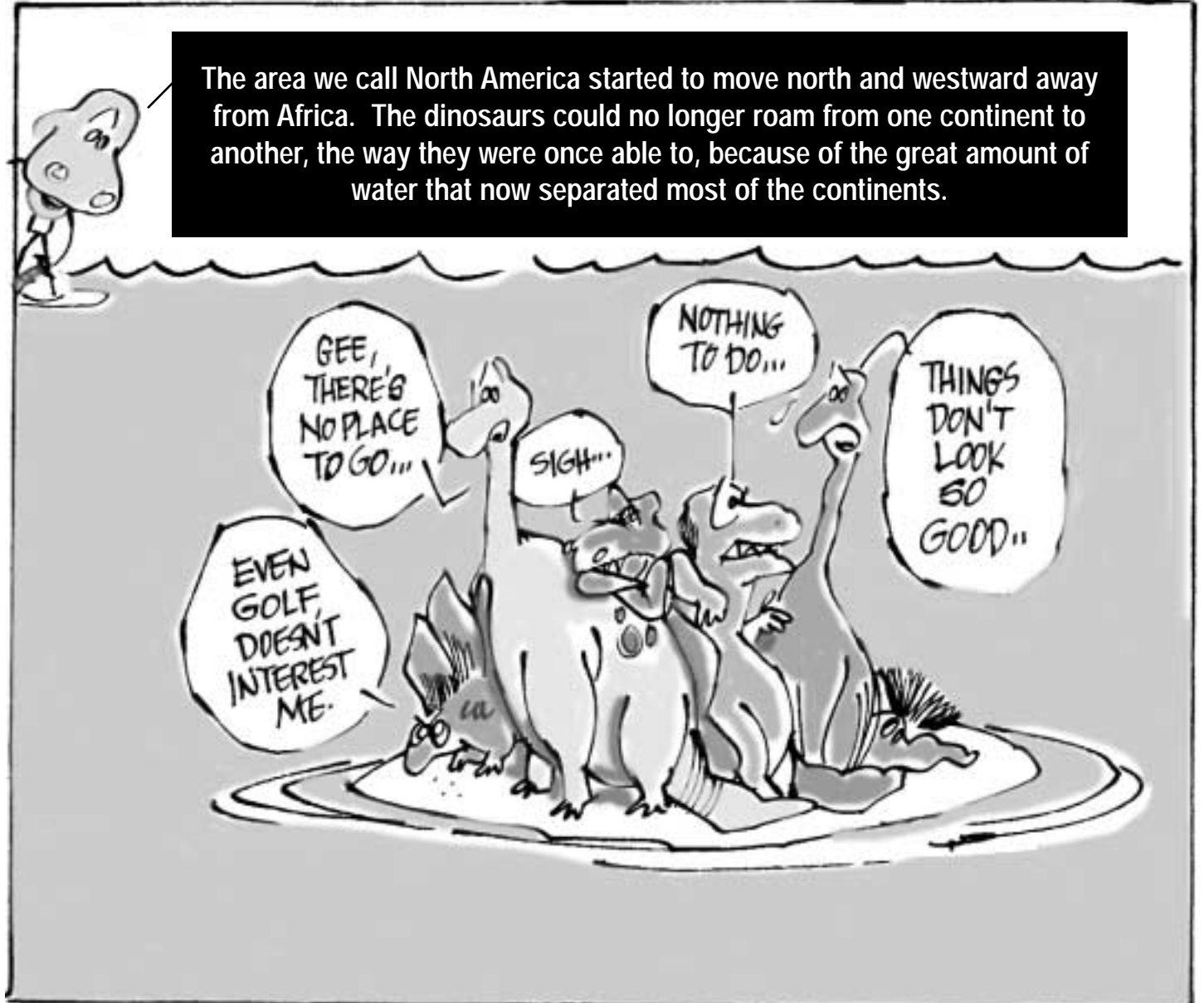
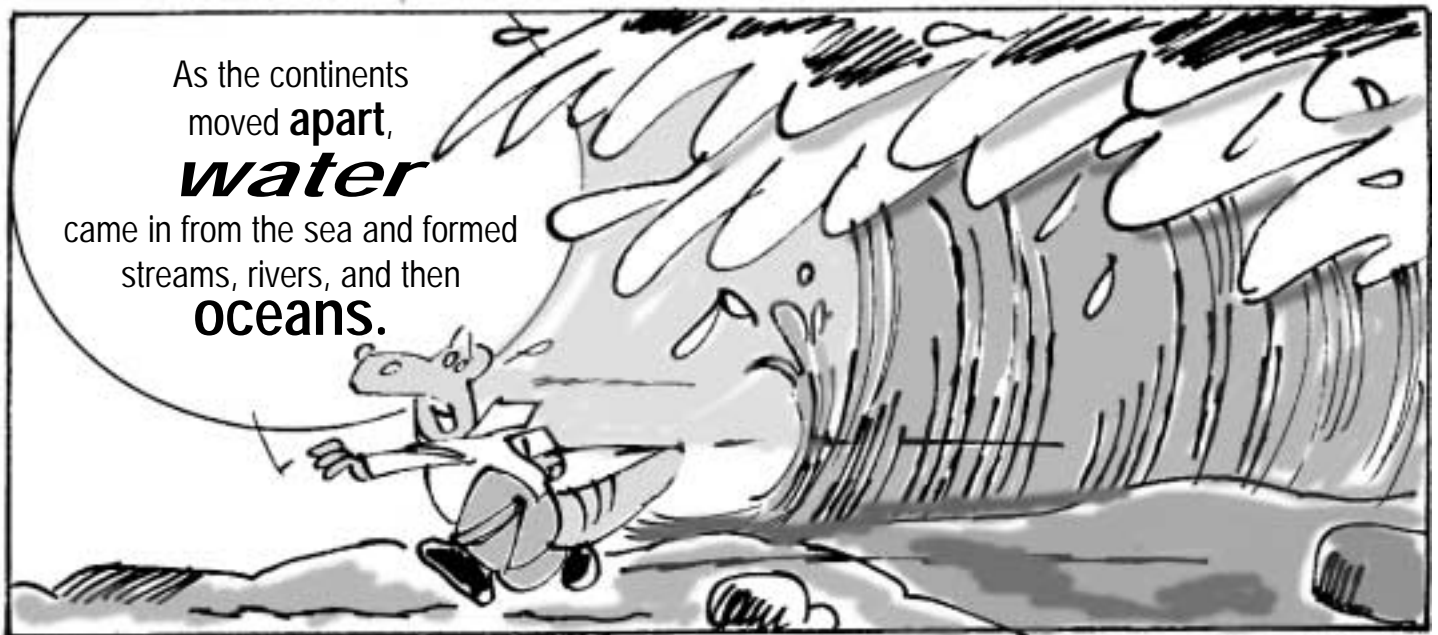


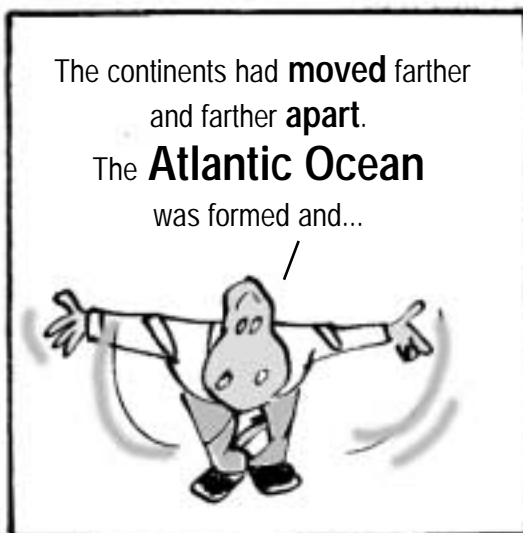
Then during the **Jurassic Period**, *206 – 144 millions of years ago*, large land areas of **Pangaea** started to break up and move! The movement of continents is called **Continental Drift**.



The **continents** are able to *move* because they are drifting **atop** the **liquid core** of the Earth.







The Continents are still drifting. North America moves Westward toward Asia... the speed is 1 to 10 centimeters a year.

